GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1497
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
INDIAN STAND ON NPT AND CTBT
VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Canadian Minister visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Canada has urged India to sign Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a)&(b) The Canadian Minister for Natural Resources, Mr. Herb Dhaliwal, visited India recently from 10-19 November 2002. During the visit to New Delhi, he met with a number of Cabinet Ministers and signed an MOU on bilateral cooperation in science and technology. He also travelled to Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra where he met members of government and business and industry leaders.

(c)&(d) In a statement in New Delhi on 11 November 2002, Mr. Dhaliwal reportedly urged India to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)He added that Canada could help India in safety aspects of civilian nuclear technology, provided India signed the NPT and CTBT.

(e)Government`s stand on the NPT as a discriminatory treaty is well known.As regards the CTBT, India will not stand in the way of entry into force of this Treaty.